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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Admin.
Information Service
821 Market Street, Room 609
San Francisco 3, California

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News Service

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FEB 19 1946

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Nov. 1, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 29--This is "National Apple Week" and the week for goblins, too! Goblins may be scarce in this age, but apples are not. For Hallowe'en fun and all the time, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, and Jonathan apples are good eating. The Rome Beauty apple is a good choice for baking because it holds its shape. The Stayman Winesap is good for cooking, as well as for eating. Two good all-purpose apples for making sauce and pies are the red colored Spitzenberg and Newtown Pippins. Feel free to make your apple choice among any one or more of these varieties--they are all abundant.

Grapes are still the next in line of good fruit buys. Varieties are mostly Tokays, Malagas, and Ribiers, with a few Emperors. Limes remain a good buy, too.

Plentiful persimmons and pomegranates at lower prices are fairly good buys this week.

Lemons are in moderate supply at the same prices, but oranges are considerably higher priced. It is encouraging to hear that the first new crop grapefruit is coming in from Arizona and the Imperial Valley at prices not unreasonably high for the first receipts.

Avocados are another "good news" item. The new crop Fuertes are just beginning to make their appearance -- at a high price, though.

Late fall and winter varieties of pears are in moderate supply, while there are still some pretty fair Persian and Honeydew melons to be had.

Good buys among the vegetable plentifuls include good quality pascal celery, dry onions, and potatoes. Additions for the vegetable plate are cabbage, cauliflower, slightly higher priced, eggplant at a lower price, lettuce, peppers, hard squash of the Hubbard, Banana, and Danish varieties, and sweet potatoes.

On butter there is very little change from a week ago. Supplies are ample for all needs at present prices. Grade A (92 Score) is 1/2 cent lower at 86½ cents per pound.

Although egg production is now showing an upward trend, supplies of large eggs are not ample to meet the demand. As a result, the wholesale price of Grade "A" Large eggs is up 1 cent at 63½ cents per dozen. Lower grades of eggs are in less demand at the same prices.

Poultry is not in as favorable a position as it has been. Receipts are light, but so is demand. Live and dressed broilers are selling 3 to 4 cents per pound lower, while fryers and roasters are down 4 to 6 cents. On dressed Leghorn hens weighing 3½ pounds and more, the wholesale price is down 1 to 2 cents. Both live and dressed young hen turkeys are 1 cent per pound less, with young toms 1 to 3 cents below a week ago. Live rabbits are 1 to 2 cents lower, too.

Meat seems to be in adequate supply at the present unsettled, high prices. Last week's salable receipts of livestock on the South San Francisco wholesale market saw all classes, except sheep, in heavier supply. Beef is running in grades of Commercial to Choice on steer beef, with very little Choice grade available. There is a more liberal supply of cow beef available in grades of mostly Commercial to Good. Utility to Choice grades of veal are being readily absorbed. Supplies of Good and Choice grade lamb are in good demand, while ewe mutton is in only moderate demand. Supplies of fresh pork are still fairly scarce. There is also a wide range of prices on the scant supply of smoked ham and bacon.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Nov. 8, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 5--Potatoes are the first order of business this week. We have a generous supply this year, but a limited storage space. As a result, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, along with others, is urging us to eat as many as we can, with particular emphasis upon the period Nov. 7 through Nov. 16. Also, now is the time to store potatoes -- if there is a cool, dry place available. Purchasing potatoes in larger quantities is, of course, more economical than buying in small amounts. Russet potatoes are plentiful now and excellent for baking and mashing, while the White Rose potatoes available are good for boiling and frying, as well as for baking. Thrifty homemakers will take advantag of these abundant supplies at fair prices to add more nutritious potato dishes to their daily menus.

Onions are the second best vegetable buy, with cabbage and cauliflower (both slightly higher priced), celery, eggplant, and sweet potatoes following in close succession.

Plentiful apples top the list of best fruit buys.

Arizona and Imperial Valley grapefruit in moderate supply and at prices on a downward trend, along with grapes at slightly higher prices than a week ago, and limes are the only other good buys.

There is a moderate supply of both pears and persimmons, but avocados, cranberries and oranges are all in light supply and high priced.

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On meat, the highlight of this past week has been a plentiful supply of cow beef and veal, along with a fair amount of pork and lamb. This is true even though last week's salable receipts on the South San Francisco wholesale livestock market were less than those of the previous week. Toward the end of the week, all shops were reporting some carry-over in supplies of beef. Because Choice grades were less abundant, Cutter to Commercial grades made up the bulk of supply. The local veal slaughter was reported to be very plentiful. As a result, a closer selection was made in carcass weights. A smaller volume of lamb found Good and Choice grades in more demand than a week ago, while ewe mutton was in little demand. A fair amount of pork sold on a wide range of prices, but the daily demand absorbed almost all cuts offered.

The trend of butter prices is getting closer to the consumer purchase level. Grade A (92-Score) is 7½ cents per pound less on the wholesale market than a week ago, while Grade B (90-Score) is down 4½ cents. Production on the Pacific Coast gained 5% last week over the previous week and was 34% more than a year ago. Also, the Federal-State Market News Reporter for dairy and poultry products says that larger supplies of oleomargarine are available at half the price of butter. All in all, it looks like more spread for the breakfast toast.

Light supplies of top quality eggs are in good demand and unchanged in price from a week ago. But there are fewer small eggs on the market and the wholesale price is up at 40½ to 42½ cents per dozen.

With the return of meat, poultry continues to be in less favorable position. As a result wholesale prices on live broilers are 1 to 2 cents per pound less than a week ago, with dressed broilers down 2 to 3 cents. Fryers and roasters dropped 2 cents per pound on live weight and 1 to 3 cents on dressed weight. Both live and dressed, small Leghorn hens took a 1 to 2 cent per pound price drop, too.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?
(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Nov. 15, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 12 -- Topping the list of best fruit buys this week are Arizona and Imperial Valley grapefruit at fair prices. Next in order are apples in moderate supply at the same prices and grapes.

Persimmons and pears in moderate supply are fairly good buys and conclude the fruit buys at a reasonable price.

Although avocados are somewhat lower priced, they are still pretty high.

As for lemons, the small ones are the best buy because the large sizes are high priced as are oranges.

There is a fairly good supply of cranberries available now, but they, too, continue in the high price brackets, along with a light supply of bananas.

Potatoes take top billing among the vegetable buys, with celery and dry onions running close seconds. Fair buys this week included sweet potatoes and slightly higher priced cauliflower, eggplant, and cabbage in the order named.

Artichokes are considerably higher priced than last week, as well as all squash. Also up in price are snap beans, lettuce and tomatoes.

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The butter market has a tendency to waver under the influence of a lower milk flow, a more plentiful supply of margarine, and evidence of consumer resistance to high prices. Supplies are adequate under these conditions. From a week ago, Grade A (92-Score) has gained one cent to a level of 80 cents per pound, while Grade B (90-Score) has dropped 3½ cents to sell at 75 cents per pound.

Top quality eggs continue in good demand at the same prices, but Grade B Large eggs are 2 cents per dozen higher at 48½ cents. Production continues to taper off, with the result that all fresh eggs are readily absorbed.

Poultry is in no better demand than it was last week. Lower meat prices are having their effect. Even though supplies are light and purchases are being held down to current needs, both live and dressed young chickens and turkeys are 1 to 2 cents per pound less. Dressed colored fowl is 2 to 3 cents per pound lower.

In face of salable livestock receipts on the South San Francisco wholesale market that totaled less than half as great last week as for the previous week, there was a fairly liberal supply of fresh meats. Less demand found a general accumulation of supplies, especially on Commercial to Good grades of beef. Very plentiful supplies of veal were largely of Good grade, while the lamb supply was not as large and was in less demand. A slightly heavier supply of pork cuts continued in best demand. All wholesale prices were on a downward trend.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Nov. 22, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 19--Grapefruit in moderate supply at the same prices is the week's best fruit buy.

Apples and grapes at prices only a shade higher than last week continue as the next best buy. Grape varieties now are mostly Emperors and Malagas.

The fall varieties of pears -- including D'Anjous and Comice -- along with persimmons are the only other fair-priced fruits available.

Even though avocados are becoming more plentiful and are somewhat lower in price, they continue among the high priced group. Other high priced items include cranberries in moderate supply, lemons, oranges, and bananas. A few new crop Navel oranges have arrived on the market, as well as some tangerines at a high price.

Dry onions and potatoes are the two best vegetable market buys.

Taking into consideration supplies and prices, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, eggplant, and Jersey and Puerto Rican type sweet potatoes are the fair buys.

Artichokes, snap beans, lettuce, squash and tomatoes all come in the high price bracket.

During this past week, fresh meats have moved more freely under less resistance by the public to the new retail prices. On the South San Francisco wholesale livestock market, total salable receipts were larger than for the previous week, especially on calves, hogs, and sheep. Cow beef, mutton and pork loins all dropped some in price. But the general beef supplies for the

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week were more liberal and enjoyed a better retail demand. Choice grade veal was scarce and there was a wider range of quality on lamb and mutton. Fresh pork cuts were more plentiful, but the bulk of the bacon offered was in packages and few regular hams were to be found.

The butter market is touchy these days. Production is on the downgrade — even though it is about 14 percent greater than last year at this time. Improved margarine supplies are making a cut into retail butter sales, which for the week ending November 7 were 7.8 percent less than last year. Higher prices lend nervousness to the whole situation. Wholesale prices are 4½ cents higher on both Grade A (92-Score) at 84½ cents per pound and Grade B (90-Score) at 79½ cents.

Top quality, fresh and storage eggs continue in good demand, while production is declining. Wholesale prices of all grades are higher. Grade A Large eggs are up 2 cents per dozen at 65½ cents, as are Mediums at 59½ cents. Grade A Smalls are 3 cents higher at 45½ cents, while Grade B Large are up 4 cents to sell at 52½ cents.

Turkeys are the chief interest on the poultry market. Supplies are daily becoming heavier and holiday buying is expected to begin soon. On a wide spread of prices between the two, young hen turkeys are up 1 to 2 cents per pound on dressed weight at 54 to 55 cents, while young toms are unchanged from a week ago at 38 to 40 cents. There isn't much change in the demand for moderate supplies of other classes of poultry. Fryers and roasters are 1 cent higher per pound on both live and dressed weights and colored hens show a rise of 1 to 3 cents

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Nov. 29, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 26 -- In looking over the list of possible fruit basket choices, we find that moderate supplies of apples, grapes and grapefruit along with plentiful supplies of limes are the week's best buys.

Second choices are pears in moderate supply at the same prices and better quality persimmons at prices a little higher.

Avocados and cranberries have similar traits in that their supplies are moderate to fairly plentiful and their prices are gradually going down but are still high.

Lemons are higher than last week, while Navel oranges are coming in to market in greater volume with very little change in prices. Tangerines are one of the new items on the market in light supply and high in price.

Scarce and high are bananas and a few Cuban pineapples now on the market.

Onions and potatoes are still the two best vegetable buys. But there are a number of fairly good buys, including adequate supplies of broccoli, cauliflower, celery, eggplant, Banana and Hubbard squash, and slightly higher priced sweet potatoes of the Jersey and Puerto Rican types.

Cherry type rhubarb is another good buy -- providing you have some sugar available. Supplies are quite plentiful at fairly reasonable prices.

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On the South San Francisco wholesale livestock market, last week's salable receipts were slightly heavier than for the previous week. Receipts included a few carcasses of beef, lamb and pork taken from the Grand National Livestock Exposition. Salable totals saw more cattle, hogs and sheep offered, but fewer calves. Among fairly ample supplies of beef, cow beef became very liberal toward the end of the week. Some of the supply was carried over and in less demand, while both steer and heifer beef remained in good demand. For the most part, liberal offerings of veal were heavy carcasses, with Good and Choice grades continuing scarce. Good and Choice grades made up the bulk of the lamb supply, which was about equal to the demand during the early part of the week but became rather plentiful after mid-week. There was some improvement in the demand for moderate receipts of ewe mutton. More liberal supplies of fresh pork were in fairly broad demand, along with a slightly heavier supply of smoked hams and bacon.

Although the butter market is more or less erratic as it tries to keep pace with Eastern markets, the only wholesale price change from a week ago is a 1½-cent per pound price rise on Grade A (92 Score) at 86 cents. At the present high prices, light supplies are adequate.

Egg production is continuing to taper off, while demand remains strong. Even though storage supplies of top quality eggs are practically exhausted and fresh eggs are being brought into this market from other areas, prices are the same as for last week.

As the result of an improved demand, fryers and roasters are 2 to 3 cents higher on live weight and 1 to 2 cents higher on dressed weight. Dressed broilers are also up 1 to 2 cents, but colored hens are barely holding their own at prices one cent lower on the top side of the live weight price range and up 2 cents on the low side of the dressed weight price range. Holiday turkeys are plentiful and selling rather slowly. An outstanding feature is the wide spread of prices between young hens and young toms. On live weight young hens are 13 to 14 cents higher than toms, while on dressed weight they are running 16-17 cents higher.